

Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSF-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PCB BAN

1. IN DEVELOPING REGULATIONS TO BAN THE USE OF PCBS IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN REGARD TO THE CASE OF HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS AND DIECASTING MACHINERY. IN INSTANCES WHERE PCB FLUID WAS USED IN THE PAST IN SUCH SYSTEMS, THE ACTS OF DRAINING, FLUSHING AND REFILLING THOSE SYSTEMS WITH NON-PCB FLUID HAS RESULTED IN HIGH LEVELS OF PCB CONTAMINATION OF THE NEW NON-PCB FLUID DUE TO RESIDUAL AMOUNTS OF PCB IN THOSE SYSTEMS.

2. IN LIGHT OF THIS PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO ELIMINATION OF PCB FROM SUCH HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS AND DIECASTING MACHINES, IT WOULD BE OF USE TO KNOW HOW THE JAPANESE BAN ON PCB USE HAS

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DEALT WITH SUCH SITUATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY OBTAINING ANSWERES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(A) HAS FLUID CONTAINING PCB EVER BEEN USED IN HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS OR METAL-FORMING DIECASTING MACHINERY IN JAPAN?

(B) HOW EXTENSIVE WAS THE USAGE OF SUCH FLUID AND WHAT WAS

ITS PCB CONTENT?

(C) HOW HAS THE JAPANESE BAN ON PCB USAGE APPLIED TO SUCH SYSTEMS?

(D) HAS THE REMOVAL OF PCB FROM SUCH PCB-CONTAMINATED SYSTEMS BEEN REQUIRED? IF REMOVAL HAS BEEN REQUIRED, HOW HAS THE PROBLEM OF CONTAMINATION ON NON-PCB FLUID FROM RESIDUAL PCBS IN SUCH SYSTEMS BEEN DEALT WITH?

3. RESPONSE NEEDED BY COB JANUARY 20. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3760561
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PCB BAN
TAGS: SENV, JA
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